

VIRGINIA'S RESPONSE TO HOUSING THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Virginia Housing Commission

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Pamela Kestner, Special Advisor on Families, Children and Poverty
Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources

Virginia's Housing Policy Agenda

- ▣ Prioritize the most urgent areas of housing & homeless program needs

- ▣ Offer advice and recommendations that address:
 - Homelessness, particularly among veterans, young adults and children
 - Rapid re-housing strategies
 - Housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities and special needs
 - Appropriate housing options for an aging demographic

Strategies

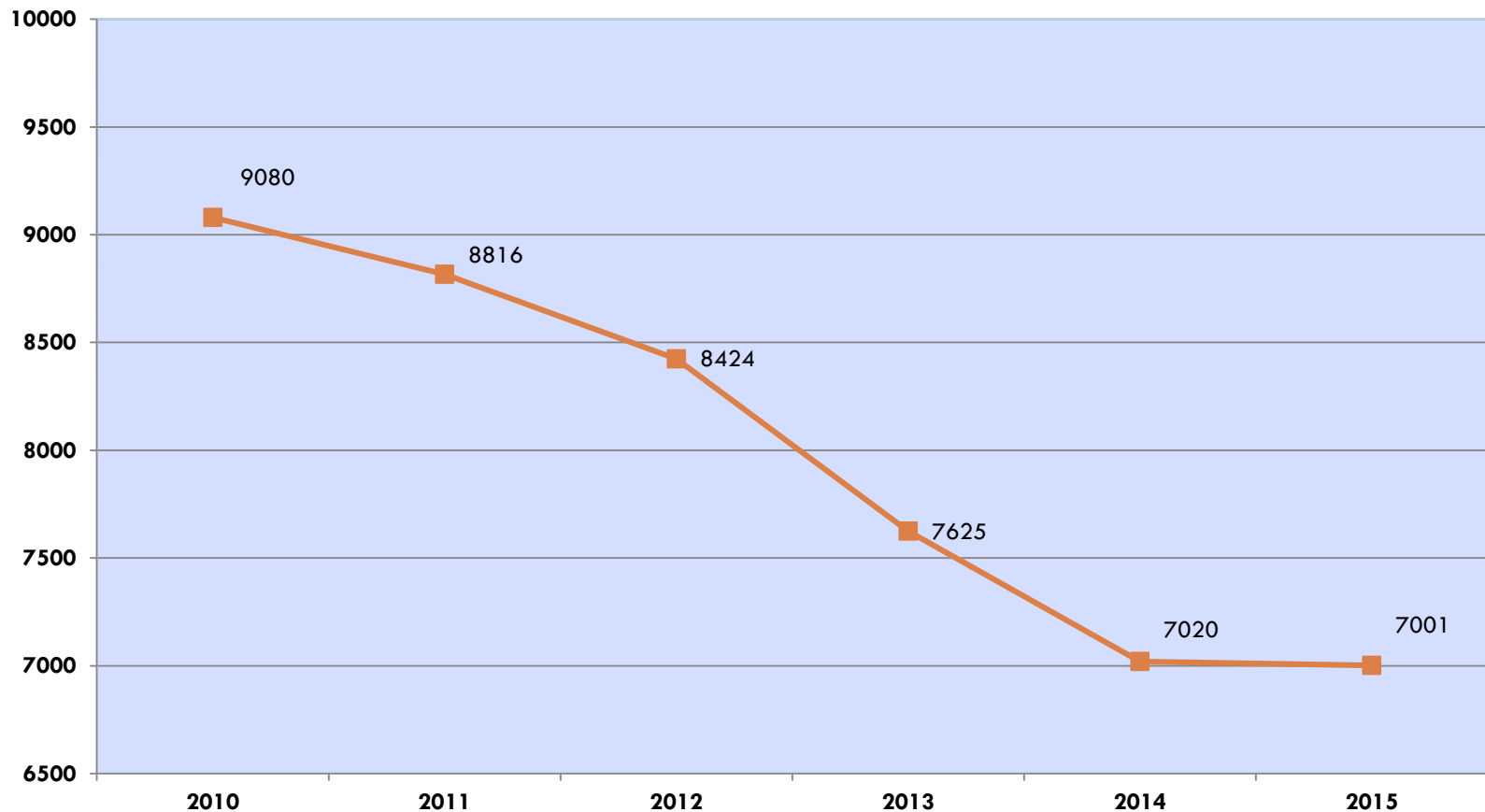
- Increase the number of permanent supportive housing units in the Commonwealth
- Increase flexibility of funding to prevent homelessness and support Rapid Re-housing for individuals and families
- Increase statewide data collection and system coordination
- Increase access to substance abuse and mental health treatment
- Improve discharge policies and procedures for foster care, hospitals, mental health facilities and correctional facilities

- ☐ **Ending Veteran Homelessness**
- ☐ **Preventing & Ending Youth Homelessness**
- ☐ **Housing & Healthcare (H²)**
- ☐ **Criminal Justice & Homelessness Systems Summit**

Virginia's 2015 Point-in-Time Count

Total Homeless Persons

23% decrease from Jan. 2010 - 2015





DOJ Settlement

Housing and Supportive Services

Key State Partners

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- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)
- Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD)
- Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)
- Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA)

Virginia's Plan to Increase Independent Living Options

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□ Goals

- Provide additional rental assistance options
- Expand quality, accessible, independent living options
- Build understanding and awareness of the need to create independent housing options; and increase the availability of those options
- Build sustainable local capacity to provide coordinated, timely and informed access to the resources and services needed

Key Components

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- Working with the ID/DD Population & their Families
- Rental Assistance
 - ▣ Housing Developers and Owners
 - ▣ Public Housing Authorities
- Supportive Services
 - ▣ Ensuring services are available



Questions